

LDOE Weekly Newsletter: January 28, 2025

In This Issue

[Message from the State Superintendent](#)

[Important Dates for School Systems](#)

[Governmental, Administrative, Public Affairs, and Operations](#)

[Teaching and Learning](#)

[Career and College Readiness](#)

[School Choice](#)

[Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics](#)

Message from the State Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

The Nation's Report Card will be released tomorrow, January 29. Governor Landry is joining me for a press conference at 10 a.m. to share how Louisiana students performed on this national assessment. The Nation's Report Card, also known as the National Assessment of Educational Progress, or NAEP, is widely known as the gold standard of assessments. These latest results measure math and reading proficiency among 4th and 8th grade students in the U.S.

Be sure to follow our social media channels or [visit our website](#) tomorrow after 10 a.m. to view the results. I'll also update you in next week's newsletter.

Thanks for all you are doing to support students and teachers,

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: [January 29 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [February 4 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: [February 4 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Social Studies Office Hours: [February 5 at 3:15 p.m.](#)
- High School Science Leaders Support Monthly Call: [February 12 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- Educational Technology Monthly Call: [February 13 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Act 260 Numeracy Training Office Hours: [February 19 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations (FSGR) Monthly Call: [February 20 at 10 a.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- SSI/System Leader Regional Collaborations Session 3: January 29-February 5
- Teacher Leader Summit 2025 Proposal Application Due: [January 31](#)
- Reading Intervention in Secondary Schools Webinar Session 1: [January 31](#)
- English Learner Institute Session 3, Baton Rouge: [February 4](#)

- 2025 PAEMST Nomination Deadline: [February 6](#)
- Diploma and Seal Order Deadline: [February 7](#)
- Teacher Leader Summit Early Bird Registration Begins: February 10
- Reading Intervention in Secondary Schools Webinar Session 2: [February 26](#)
- 2025 Future Law Enforcement Youth Academy Application Deadline: [February 28](#)
- CSI/TSI Plan Submission Deadline in eGMS: May 2
- Zearn/Louisiana Leader Collaboration: [March 11](#)
- English Learner Institute Session 4, Baton Rouge: [May 14](#)
- 13th Annual Teacher Leader Summit: [June 10-12](#), New Orleans

Governmental, Administrative, Public Affairs, and Operations

Temporary Pause of Federal Agency Grants, Loans, Assistance

Please share with system leaders.

The Acting Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) [issued a memorandum](#) to federal agency heads on January 27, 2025, regarding the temporary pause of federal agency grants, loans, and other financial assistance. The OMB also made [this O&A resource](#) available. The LDOE is reviewing this and all of the recent actions taken by the new administration and will collaborate with other agencies and school systems on appropriate guidance or policy shifts.

Please contact LDOE.grantshelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

Submission to LDOE of Updated Local Policy Regarding Student Telecommunications Devices

Please share with system leaders.

The newly revised policy in Bulletin 741 - Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators §1141 requires LEAs to develop or update policy regarding student use of telecommunications devices and submit a copy to the LDOE no later than March 1. Please review the updated BESE policy to ensure that all required components are included in the local policy prior to sending to the LDOE policy office.

Please contact educationpolicy@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

Diverse Learners

Fast Track ESL Add-On

Please share with EL departments, instructional coaches, principals, and teachers.

Tuition-free courses are available for teachers and leaders to earn an ESL Add-On credential. Please complete the 2024-2026 Early Interest Survey to receive information about Project Endorsement Plus opportunities.

Please contact alexandra.chenevert@la.gov with questions.

English Learner Institute

Please share with English Learner directors/coordinators, federal program directors, and lead EL teachers.

The LDOE is excited to announce the upcoming English Learner Institute for EL Directors and Coordinators. The Institute will provide essential information and updates regarding English Learners. Registration is linked below.

Please mark your calendars for the following days:

- [February 4: Claiborne Building, Baton Rouge](#)
- [May 14: Claiborne Building, Baton Rouge](#)

Please contact alexandra.chenevert@la.gov with questions.

Special Education Leader Collaborative

Please share with special education directors and leaders.

The Division of Diverse Learners is hosting a Special Education Collaborative. Registration is now open for this in-person meeting, which will facilitate collaboration between the LDOE and special education system leaders to provide increased support for diverse learners in Louisiana. This event will take place at the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge on February 18 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.

Virtual Office Hours: Bringing the Special Education Playbook to Life- IEP Writing Support

Please share with educators, IEP facilitators, and IEP teams of diverse learners.

Join New Solutions' Virtual Drop-In Office Hours for an opportunity to:

- Ask questions about integrating best practices into your IEPs
- Get clarification on best instructional practices content
- Explore additional examples of effective IEP language

New Solutions' IEP office hours will be on the third Thursday of each month from January to May at 2 p.m.

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.

2025 Youth Leadership Forum Application Open

Please share with special education leaders and teachers.

The 2025 Louisiana Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) is a four-day residential leadership program focused on empowering youth with disabilities while promoting an environment of disability culture and pride. This program provides delegates the skills needed to become future leaders.

YLF is currently recruiting staff and delegates for its four-day summer program, which will be held July 10–13 at the LSU-Eunice campus. All speakers are peer mentors with disabilities. In addition to learning about advocacy and leadership, delegates will have the opportunity to make like-minded friends and build community. Lodging, accommodations, and meals will be provided at no cost. Learn more at the [YLF website](#) and apply to be a delegate or staff member.

Please contact ldejean@fhfacadiana.org with questions.

Career and College Readiness

Louisiana Legislative Youth Advisory Council (LYAC) Applications

Please share with administrators, counselors, social workers, and system leaders.

[The Legislative Youth Advisory Council \(LYAC\)](#) is a body created by state law that is composed entirely of high school students with an interest in representing the voices of young people across the state. It opens the line of communication between youth and the legislature and gives students the opportunity to be involved in the workings of government. The thirty-one student members are appointed each year, three from each of the state's congressional districts and the remaining members at large. The Louisiana Commission on Civic Education oversees the work of LYAC and selects its membership. LYAC is now accepting membership [applications](#) for the 2025-2026 school year. [A recommendation form and letter\(s\)](#) must accompany the membership application in order to be considered. The deadline for submission is March 28.

Please contact bellam@legis.la.gov for more information.

Course Choice Reporting System

Please share with high school principals, school counselors, and system leaders.

Due to school closures, the deadline for spring enrollment reporting has been extended to January 31. Please check the [portal](#) for updates.

Please contact sca@la.gov with questions.

School Choice

Charter Schools

2024-2025 Annual RFA Application Cycle for Type 2 & 4 Charters

Please share with school and system leaders.

The 2024-2025 Annual RFA Application Cycle for Type 2 and 4 charters slated to open August 2026 will open February 3. Applicants must meet the eligibility requirements listed in [LA Bulletin 126. §503](#). Application deadlines are as follows:

- Letters of Intent due: February 10 by 5 p.m. (emailed to: charters@la.gov)
- Eligibility determination forms due: March 10 by 5 p.m. (emailed to: charters@la.gov)
- Submission deadline for the full application for Types 2 and 4 applicants: March 31
- BESE considers applications for Type 2 and 4 new charter schools: August 19

Applicants must meet each of the listed deadlines to be permitted to move to the next component of the application cycle.

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.

Charter School Program (CSP) Grant Informational Session–Rescheduled

Please share with new charter applicants, charter school leaders, and system leaders.

Due to recent statewide office closures, the CSP Informational Sessions initially scheduled for January 21 and January 23 were canceled. The CSP Informational Session has been rescheduled for [January 30 at 10 a.m.](#) Anyone interested in learning more about this exciting opportunity for charter schools in Louisiana is invited to attend.

Please contact cspgrant@la.gov or tammy.morgan3@la.gov with questions.

Charter School Program Grant Application Cycle

Please share with charter school leaders, new charter applicants, and system leaders.

The Office of School Choice is pleased to announce a winter/spring CSP grant application cycle with the following timeline. This application cycle is open to those charter groups that have already been authorized either by BESE or their local district and those seeking local authorization with anticipated approval in January.

- Eligibility Determination Form due: February 3
- CSP Subgrant Application due: March 12

Organizations that have submitted a Letter of Intent will be invited to Technical Assistance Webinars before the Eligibility Determination Form due date.

Please contact cspgrant@la.gov or tammy.morgan3@la.gov with questions.

Nonpublic Schools

2025-2026 BESE and Brumfield v Dodd Approval Application Open

Please share with nonpublic school leaders.

Nonpublic schools seeking state approval must apply annually for approval by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE). To become eligible for LA GATOR funding, schools must be approved by BESE and also comply with Brumfield vs. Dodd, a federal court order that prohibits discrimination.

The [2025-2026 BESE Approval Application](#) will be open from January 27 through February 13. Late applications will not be accepted.

Please contact nonpublicschools@la.gov with questions.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

ACT: Request for Accommodations

Please share with school leaders and testing coordinators.

With the closure of many school systems in response to severe weather, ACT is accepting new requests for accommodations through January 31. However, the deadline to request reconsideration of accommodations remains as January 31 and cannot be changed.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Interests and Opportunities Indicator Selections

Please share with accountability contacts and school leaders.

The final 2024-2025 Interests and Opportunities indicator selections, submitted via the Jotform survey, have been dropped into the DMFTP. The file is named, "I&O Selections 24-25 – LEA CODE – LEA NAME - 01.28.2025."

Please contact accountability@la.gov with questions.